

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAR 03 2003

Technology Center 2600

February 18, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants petition to extend to time for responding to the Office Action dated September 17, 2002, to and including Monday (a Federal Holiday), February 17, 2003. A check in the amount of \$1,450.00 in payment of the extension fee is enclosed. Please charge any deficiency in this payment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

February 18, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

FRANK A. DELUCIA, JR.

(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

February 18, 2003

Date of Signature

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction between the following groups of claims:

I. Group I (Claims 1-11), directed to a node or line terminal including a test signal generator, classified in class 359, subclass 110;

II. Group II (Claims 12-17), directed to nodes with transponders and loopback mechanisms, classified in class 359, subclass 176; and

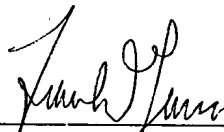
III. Group III (Claims 18-29), directed to a node with a multiplexer/demultiplexer, classified in class 359, subclass 124.

Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect Group I (Claims 1-11), without traverse, for initial prosecution on the merits.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No.

42,476

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